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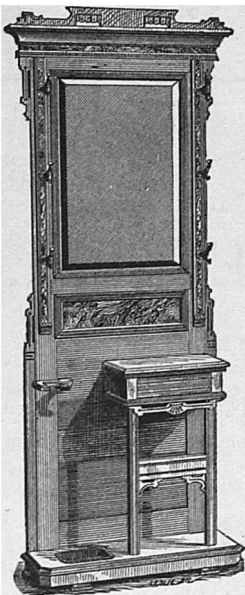
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OPINIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE DEALERS.

—*—

Furniture.—M. & H. SCHRENKEISEN have in their stock of parlor and drawing-room furniture, a great variety of woods which they feel will be among the leading styles of the coming season. The plain and ordinary mahogany is still used, and that from San Domingo or from Cuba is made up in considerable quantities. Walnut remains very expensive, and is preferred by a great many for general furnishing. There is certainly something to be explained in the high price of mahogany, a wood that is more plentiful than almost any other, can be had in large quantities, and yet it is held at a figure that places it upon the same plane as a rare wood. However, be this as it may, the fashionable world makes no objection to the price, and it is in favor. Satinwood is used, perhaps more than ever, and ebonized cherry frames are displacing the genuine ebony. Butternut, looking like oak, is employed in framing, and carves handsomely. Manila from the East Indies is likewise a favorite, and while being almost as handsome as mahogany, is much cheaper. Ash and bird's eye maple are naturally about where they always were. Some hall chairs upholstered in rich tapestry are very rich and handsome in appearance, and are said to be taking the place of leather. Diamond shaped tables with delicate brass rails about them, others again whose corners fold up and make a round or square top, are among the novelties.

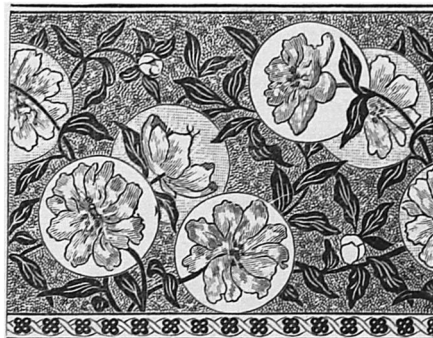
Wall Paper.—BARTHOLOMAE & Co. say that the ecru shade is most popular still, and they are selling more of that than of any one color. The designs have followed the fashion in tapestries and hangings, and substituted for the fine, intricate or continuous patterns, a desire for the unique, the odd, the queer. All kinds of strange figures, animals, birds or scrolls, exaggerated and monstrous conceptions, the fabulous and the grotesque, a surcharge and burlesque of the wildest idea of the craziest of Renaissance artists. That's the sort of thing, according to the best reports we can get at, that is to prevail in the fashionable world for this season. Gold and bronze and silvered effects are discarded by "society," although that particular element in our midst that strives after the greatest display for the least possible expenditure of cash, is steadfast in its regard for tinsel and gilt in wall-paper.

Decorations.—MR. H. EDGAR HARTWELL thinks that metallic decoration of hangings will grow into popular favor, and if the gold and silver, or whatever may be their substitute, is displayed in a judicious manner, subdued and robbed of its tendency to the bizarre, the effects that can be wrought will indeed be most attractive. Figures in these materials are, of course, kept within a moderate scope, and the metal is employed rather to jewel the ornamentation proper than to constitute any distinct pattern of its own. Some of Mr. Hartwell's furniture shows brass decoration profusely displayed, and ebony or ebonized wood is one of the prevailing materials, dividing the honors about equally with mahogany. Crackle glass, judging from the amount of it in this establishment, must be a favorite beyond the plain stained glass, and that, too, for large surfaces.

Furniture Leather. CHAS. H. WALKER & Co. have prepared for the decorative leather demand of the season, a variety of designs that are unique and attractive. The heavily embossed patterns profusely ornamented with gold and silver, are not in general demand. Intricate figures, squares, diamonds, rings and scrolls are more desirable and borders are very handsome, formed of classical or mythological subjects. These figures are generally stamped or embossed in the plain leather, with no other coloring than that natural to the material itself. Square pieces for the centre of circular tables and elaborate backs for chairs, are the especial field for new work. A leather cabinet is handsome and rather unusual.

Mattings.—WALTER SCOTT & Co., preparing for the matting season, have found many very attractive and rather original designs among their importations. A matting with a very delicately colored straw running through it, showing at an occasional spot here and there over the white ground, is an improvement upon the old-fashioned matting pattern. The ordinary checker-board design is elaborated also, and diamond and cross-shaped figures are plentiful. Colors also are much improved, being of a wider variety and brighter.

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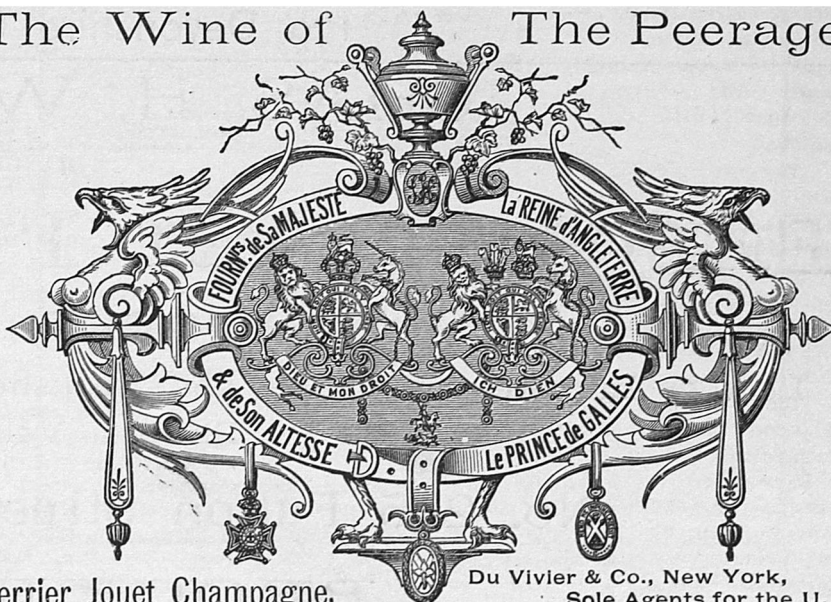
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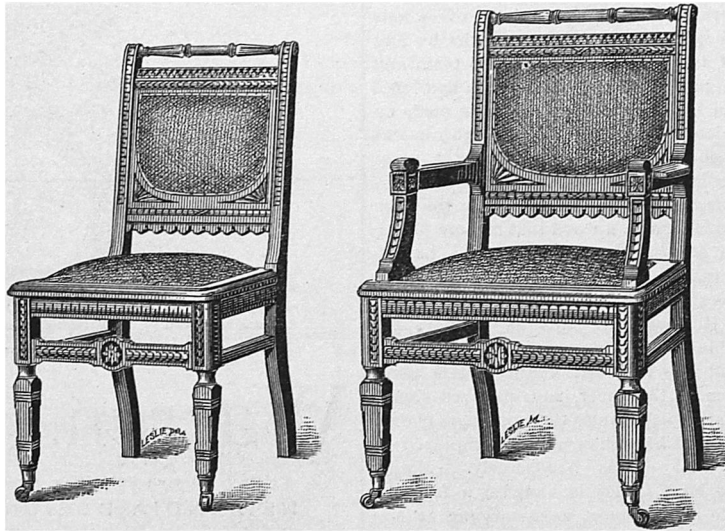
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Folding Beds.—The introduction of the folding-bed was one of the most useful improvements in furnishing that it has ever occurred to manufacturers to make. It rendered the limited compass of a single room capable of doing service for an extensive and capacious suite, and in the shortest conceivable time it converted the bedroom into a parlor or *vice versa*. The cumbersome affairs that were at first accepted as the very type of convenience, would now seem unweildy indeed, and the few that remain are most depreciatingly compared with those of modern make. The neatest sort of designs have been originated, and desks, bookcases and wardrobes apparently honest in their assumed roles, will, by the gentle manipulation of a hidden spring, disclose a most comfortable and inviting bed ready made for occupancy. Among those making these improvements in this article of furniture, THE HALE & KILBURN MANUFACTURING COMPANY, of Philadelphia, have shown us a new form of so-called wardrobe bed, whose merit appears to rest mainly upon the delicate adjustment of its balance, so arranged that the smallest degree of effort, only, is required to open or close it, and may be stopped in its descent or ascent at any point desired. All these advances in the manufacture of furniture should be received with the liveliest interest by the public, for it is the public comfort that in this way is conserved.

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Furniture.—HERTS BROTHERS show many rich upholsteries for handsome furniture. Tapestries are among the very richest of such materials, and are fully as expensive as they are beautiful. The real article from France, Italy or Spain is shown, and it is not wondered at, after seeing some of them, that the figures placed upon them are exorbitant and extreme. Some beautiful tapestries are made in Nîmes, in Southern France, and much of the silk or satin damask comes from Lyons. Silk valours are very fashionable in drawing-rooms, and consequently are used more than any other one material. Rugs are not very popular as coverings, being so readily imitated in the cheaper goods, and they have not remained as lasting, fashionably, as other materials. Leather has disappeared entirely from libraries, and been replaced by tapestries, plush and silk. The usual elaborate display of fancy furniture is found here, and among it many novelties in the furnishing line. A dwarf book case about four feet tall, has a narrow drawer at the top and four shelves protected by a curtain suspended by rings upon a brass bar attached immediately beneath the drawer. Curiously shaped chairs, sconces, hat racks, to say nothing of the larger pieces, sideboards, buffets, cabinets, etc., etc., fill every available space. Brass is remarkably "unanimous" in its application to the various pieces of furniture, and almost every table has a brass panel or gallery upon it.

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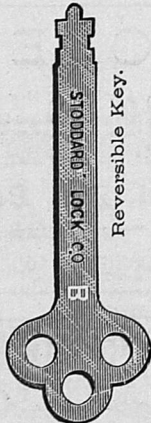
104 Reade Street, New York.



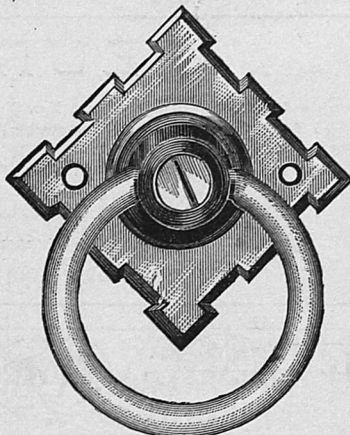
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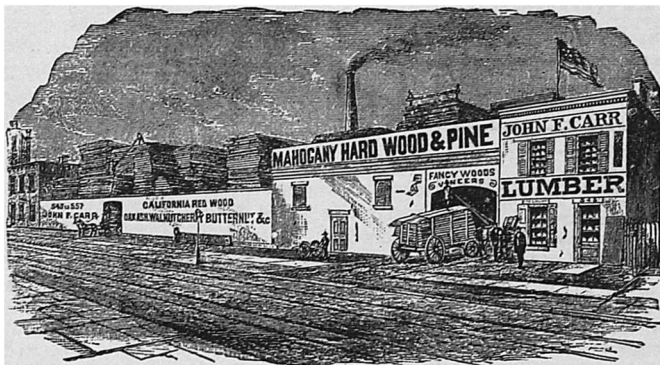
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